

Biological Park on 27-iv-1973 through the good offices of Sub-Divisional Officer, Anandpur. However, it died soon after its arrival. The animal weighed 3.6 Kg and measured 83 cm from tip to tip including 23 cm long tail. This appears to be the first record of occurrence of this cat in Orissa.

An adult female Fishing Cat received in this Park on 26-vi-1967 through an animal dealer of Calcutta died on 2-iii-1974 after remaining for 6 years, 8 months and 5 days in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was about 10 years. After death it weighed 6.8 Kg and measured 102 cm including 26 cm long tail. It was fed on a mixed diet of beef and mutton with a chicken once a month and used to take fish whenever offered. It had the peculiar habit of urinating most of the time into the water trough. It was very shy, and kept inside its shelter throughout the day coming out for feeding late in the evening when all the visitors had left and moving about in the enclosure from late evening to early hours of the morning.

Prater (1971)¹ gives the distribution as forests up to 1525 m in the Himalayas and the swamps at the base of the mountains. Parts of Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Sind and unknown in the Peninsula of India except in the creeks and backwaters of the Malabar coast between Mangalore and Cape Comorin.

VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P.O. BARANG, DIST. CUTTACK.

L. N. ACHARJYO

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,
OLD SECRETARIATE BUILDING,
CUTTACK 1 (ORISSA),
April 25, 1974.

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4. AGE OF SEXUAL MATURITY OF TWO SPECIES OF WILD CARNIVORES IN CAPTIVITY

In this note, an attempt is made to present some information on the age of sexual maturity of two species of wild carnivores observed at Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa.

Tiger *Panthera tigris* (Linn.)

A female tiger cub with an estimated age of about 7 weeks was received in this Park on 2-xi-1967. She came into heat for the first time on 3-ix-1970 and was allowed to remain with a male tiger born

¹ PRATER, S. H. (1971): The Book of Indian Animals, Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay: 74-75.

in the Park on 31-vii-1967. Mating was observed during the following periods, 3-ix-1970 to 5-ix-1970; 22-xii-1970 to 25-xii-1970; 2-iv-1971 to 6-iv-1971; 1-vi-1971 to 5-vi-1971; and 23-vii-1971 to 27-vii-1971. A female cub was born on 7-xi-1971. From these facts it can be said that while the first signs of sexual maturity in the female appeared at the age of about 3 years, the male did not reach sexual maturity at least one week before he reached the age of 4 years.

According to Prater (1971) lions and tigers take from 3 to 5 years to become fully adult but males and females are capable of breeding soon after, or even before, they are 3 years old. The first cubbing of a tigress takes place at about the age of four and a tiger is fully grown in about 5 years (Chaturvedi 1970). A female tiger became sexually mature soon after passing the age of $3\frac{1}{2}$ years whereas a male tiger became sexually mature at least 15 days before he reached the age of 4 years (Crandall 1965).

Common Palm Civet or Toddy Cat *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* (Pallas)

A male common palm civet born in this Park on 3-iv-1971 was allowed to remain with its mother and mating of the young male with the female was first observed from 12-iii-1972 to 14-iii-1972 resulting in the birth of 3 young on 18-v-1972. From these facts the age of sexual maturity of the male common palm civet can be said to be not less than 11 months, 10 days or say 11 months.

The age at which the civets became fully adult is not known (Prater, loc. cit.).

VETERINARY ASST. SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P.O. BARANG, DIST. CUTTACK.

L. N. ACHARJYO

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,
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CUTTACK 1 (ORISSA),
March 12, 1973.

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